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succeeds, who has the little victory? Tears of the bereaved fall, the wail of orphans goes up to God, and there is sorrow in both the countries at every encounter; but, however sanguinary this guerilla warfare, whatever be the number killed on either side, or how many wagons destroyed, it has no effect whatever seriously to injure or benefit either nation, or induce either to sue for peace. Such is naval warfare, most glorious and chivalric!

There is one apology for a navy, which can hardly fail to create a smile. It was once said, that a navy was necessary, if our nation were in this predicament—if it had declared war, and a nation against whom it issued the proclamation of war, did not choose to attack us, how could we fight without a navy to go in quest of a foe!

Reader, are you a Christian, and can you support an establishment, the only function of which is useless carnage, offensive war? We do not now say to you, that you should not call out the army, or build forts for your protection. You may not be prepared to carry out in full the principle of "overcoming evil with good;" but, if you claim the name of Christian, how can you support a navy useless in peace, and which in war carries on the work of death without the poor apology or excuse that the bloodshed is useful to you? In the name of common sense, give up useless murder. Do not make unnecessary slaughter. Defend your country, if you will; but remember that your trade and commerce with other countries are not worth fighting for; that even were they worth fighting for, you annihilate trade and commerce by the very declaration of war.

Unpopular as this view may appear to some, depend upon it, the time is rapidly approaching when fighting will be deemed disgraceful to a civilized people. In saying this, we cast no reflection upon the officers of the navy, or upon its friends. Their education and habits of life cause them to look upon this service in a false light. When the true light comes to their minds, they will be ready to abandon the navy at once.

MILITARY SYSTEM OF PRUSSIA.

The present military organization of Prussia, says Laing in his *Notes of a Traveller*, is one of the most important features in the social economy of the Continent. It has been adopted, with more or less rigor in its application, by almost all the secondary European powers; and its principle and spirit enter into all the civil as well as the military arrangements of those countries, and extend an influence over the whole social condition of the European population, much more extensively than any other military system has done, since the decay of the feudal. The system of standing armies which preceded it, and which still exists, entered but slightly as an element into the social economy of a country. The classes who had to furnish recruits to it, either by enlistment or impressment, more or less concealed under the forms of a ballot, suffered a loss of the members thus abstracted from civil life; but that was almost the only effect on the social economy of the population, excepting the taxation, more or less heavy in different countries, necessary for supporting a standing army totally distinct from the people.

It is a singular historical fact, that Prussia has twice within these hundred years furnished the model on which almost all the other European powers have formed their military force, even to the most minute details. The former military system of Prussia, as it was left in its highest perfection by Frederick the Great to his successor, was one of harsh and brutifying discipline, enforced by the cudgel over trembling squads of serfs, trained into mere moveable machines. The first shock with the undisciplined troops of the French republic, proved that this system was false, that humanity was not to be outraged with impunity in the formation of armies, and that mind

and moral influences were superior elements, even in modern tactics, to the academy discipline of the corporal's stick. The whole of the European armies, formed, even to the shape of their buttons, upon this Prussian model, were by numberless defeats totally disorganized. The new military system of Prussia, as established by edicts of the third of September, 1814, and the twenty-first of November, 1815, has been adopted by almost all the secondary European powers.

SELECTION AND TERM OF SERVICE.—By this system, every subject between the ages of twenty and twenty-five years, without distinction of fortune, birth, class, or intended profession, is bound to serve as a private soldier in the ranks of the standing army, for a period of three successive years. From this obligation, only the most obvious incapacity from bodily or mental defect or infirmities can excuse any individual, and that incapacity must be examined and admitted by the trial board of commissioners for military affairs, whose proceedings are reported to, and watched over by, a superior provincial board; and both report upon every claim for exemption to the war department. By the construction of these boards, it is impossible that favor, partiality, or local interests, can screen any individual from his turn for entering the service for three years—which turn is determined by lot, drawn by those who are between the prescribed years, viz., between twenty and twenty-five years of age—nor from serving his three years in that particular branch of service or regiment, for which, from stature, constitution, or previous occupation, he may be best adapted. Officers from each branch of service—the guards, artillery, cavalry, and infantry—attend these boards at their sittings, for this selection.

EXEMPTION.—In order not to press too severely on the professions or occupations incompatible with such a long period of military services, certain exemptions on account of the social position of the individual are allowed by favor, and on certificate from the proper authorities, so as to reduce the period of service in a regiment of the line from three years to one year; the individual thus favored being at the expense of his own clothing and accoutrements. But such exemption is the exception, not the rule; is not a matter of right, but of favor, and also of political convenience, when the ranks of the standing army are already sufficiently full. After this service of three years, in a regiment of the line or standing army, the individual returns on leave of absence as a supernumerary, liable to rejoin his regiment in case of war; but upon his attaining his twenty-sixth year after his three years' service, he is discharged from the lists of the standing army of reserve, and into that division of it which is called *Ester Aufgeböths*, or first for service. This is the real army of the country, being composed entirely of soldiers of three years' training, between the ages of twenty-six and thirty-two years. The standing army is the formation-school for the population. One-third of its members are discharged every autumn into this division of the army of reserve, and replaced in spring out of the population by the local and provincial boards of commissioners.

EXERCISES.—The army of reserve is called out for exercise and field manœuvres for fourteen days every year which, however, is sometimes extended to four weeks. The individual after his thirty-second year is turned over from this first division to the second division (*Zweiten Aufgeböths*) of the army of reserve. In case of war, this division would not take the field, but would do garrison duty, as being composed generally of men with families, and more advanced in life, and also of half invalids who had been found unfit for severer duty. After his forty-ninth year, the individual is turned over into the *land-strum*, or *levy-en-masse*, which is mustered or exercised only in its own locality, and would be called out only in case of actual invasion, or domestic tumult. The whole land is thus one vast camp, the whole population one army. Every man in every station of life, and in every locality, is a drilled soldier, who knows his regiment, his company, his squad, his military place in it, and appears under arms at his rendezvous

for duty with as little delay or confusion, and as complete in all military appointments, as a soldier of any standing army quartered in cantonments. The precision and arrangements with which all the equipments of each portion of the army of reserve are placed in convenient depots and headquarters over the country for the inhabitants of each locality belonging to that force, prevent any confusion in the working of this vast military system. Standing armies composed of men enlisted or impressed for an unlimited period of service, or for a period long enough to separate them from the rest of society almost entirely, to detach them as a class from all the ties and habits of civil life, exist now only in Russia, Austria, France and England. Prussia and all the secondary powers, have dropped this kind of military force. In France, six years, and in Austria, eight years, is the term of service for the conscript drawn by ballot for the army, and latterly the period is extended to eight years in France; and, as far as regards the individuals' habits, and ties, this is almost equivalent to unlimited service. All the European powers have organized their military force upon the Prussian principle; and this has imperceptibly altered, most essentially, their relative political importance, and the weight of Prussia in European affairs; and particularly has become an element in the social structure, and in the political balance of power in the European states, of great interest to the political philosopher observant of those silent changes which come over civilized society unremarked until, on some sudden crises, they produce striking effects. This national army of the Prussian system appears to be the cheapest, the most effective, and most valuable military force a country can keep. Its cheapness, indeed, in proportion to its great numerical strength, and to the fine and efficient appearance under arms, to which good arrangement and discipline have brought this force in Prussia, has led to the almost general adoption of the system on the Continent. The soldiery are in pay only during the period they are embodied, that is, during the three years' service in the line, when they may be considered as leaving their military duty, and afterwards, only during the few weeks yearly of army of reserve service, when the troops are assembled for field manœuvres in great masses in different points of the kingdom. Our military men, who gallop about at these grand Prussian reviews, declare unanimously their admiration of the appearance, movements, manœuvres, and military excellence of the Prussian army; and its drill and equipments, as well as organization, have become a model for other troops, almost as generally as they were at the commencement of the revolutionary war, before the onset of troops far less exquisitely drilled and dressed than the old Prussian army, settled the real value in the field of this parade perfection for half a century.

RELATIVE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS.—It is stated by a statistical writer, Jancigny, as an approximation to the proportion of the military to the population of the different countries, that in Russia, one in fifty-seven of the population is serving as a soldier; in Prussia, one in eighty; in Austria, one in one hundred and eighteen; in France, one in one hundred and twenty-two; and in England, one in three hundred and twenty. But in this statistical approximation, the writer forgets the most important element in it, as far regards the industry, morals and habits of a people, viz., that in England, this one represents a whole military generation. As long as this one lasts, the three hundred and twenty do not furnish another one to fill his place as a soldier, and when they do, it is one who can be spared, and whose social condition allows him to enlist. In Russia, it appears to be the same; the one represents a whole military generation. In Austria and France, the one represents eight years and six years respectively, during which periods, the one is not replaced out of the body of the community; and as, after six or eight years of military service, many soldiers have lost all civil ties, and means of earning a living, and re-engage as substitutes for those drawn to replace them, the system is nearly equivalent in practice to the English and Russian. But in Prussia, the one represents only three years. He is

then thrown back, with his half military, half civil habits, into the mass of the community, and another one is taken out of the eighty, without regard to his social position or relation to others, to be demoralized by the same process.

Of all the European powers, Prussia supports the greatest military establishment in proportion to her extent, population, and finances. The infantry of the line is reckoned 132,013 men; the cavalry of the line and of the guards, 25,200 men; pioneers, miners, and other bodies of the engineer corps, 13,500 men; the infantry of the landwehr, exercised yearly, 124,737 men; the cavalry of the landwehr, exercised four weeks yearly, 19,656 men; the artillery of the landwehr, 17,292 men. The amount, including 8,118 officers, is 362,881 fighting men. Two-thirds of the landwehr, first for service, is sufficient to complete the landwehr regiments to their war establishment, so that one-third (above 80,000 men) of this division of the force remains disposable, and the whole of the division of the landwehr second for service, which is as strong as the first division. The whole available exercised force of Prussia is reckoned by military writers at 532,000 men. The artillery is said (of course no exact information on such a point can be obtained or sought for by the traveller) to consist in pieces complete and useful, of six hundred and forty-eight six-pounders and howitzers, of two hundred and sixteen twelve-pounders, and of two hundred and sixteen light field-pieces for horse artillery, besides an unknown amount of heavy guns in the fortresses and in three hundred garrison towns.

MEANS OF SUPPORT.—The funds required in time of profound peace and non-movement of troops, to keep up this enormous military force, appear to be 22,798,000 thalers, out of a total revenue of 51,187,000 thalers. The revenue being pushed to the utmost point, beyond which the productiveness of additional taxation would be small, being managed and collected also with great economy; the direct taxes costing but 4 per cent., and the indirect taxes 15 per cent., on the gross amount, as expense of collection; it does not appear how, in the event of a war, funds would be found to move this huge military machine. The time, labor, industry and money which should have been accumulating during peace in the hands of the people, and forming a capital, diffused over the country, capable of bearing the expenses of a war, are expended every year in military shows, drills and manœuvres, which, even admitting that they make perfect soldiers of the whole population, leave nothing to move them in the event of real war—*nothing* to raise taxes from. In the whole Prussian population, the number of males fit for productive labor, that is, between their seventeenth and forty-fifth year inclusive, appears to be about 3,000,000; it is 3,042,946, including the infirm, sick, blind, lamè, deformed, and all fit or unfit for military duty and productive labor. Above one-sixth of this gross number of productive laborers is taken by the state every year, for longer or shorter periods, from productive labor, to be employed in the unproductive labor of *handling their firelocks, marching and manœuvring*. *A people, whose time and labor are thus taken away from industrial occupations, can never become rich or powerful as a nation, nor well off as individuals.* The Duke of Wellington was right in an observation which has often been cavilled at—“that notwithstanding our heavy taxation, the English laboring people are the least heavily taxed of any laboring people in Europe.” The time and labor of the common man with us, are not taken from him by his government. The unwieldiness and disproportion of the Prussian military force to the industrial force, which should raise the means to use it, appears from the following comparison: Prussia, with a population of 14,000,000, has an army of 432,000 men: Austria, with a population of 32,000,000, has an army of 750,000 men; but if Austria adopted the Prussian military system, her army would amount to 4,219,000 men. France, estimated in 1841 to have a population of 35,000,000, has an army of 840,000 men; but on the Prussian military system, her army would amount to 1,330,000 men.—

Great Britain, with a population of 26,000,000, would, in proportion to Prussia, have an army of 937,000 men as her present establishment; a greater number than in the heat of the last war, reckoning volunteers, yeomanry, and all, were ever withdrawn from preparing the sinews of war by the exercise of private industry, to make shows and sham-fights, or even to repel a threatened invasion.

We cannot be supposed to endorse all that is said by such an admirer of the war-system; but his statements furnish matter for many useful and interesting reflections.

1. How vast the proportion of soldiers to the entire population—one in little more than twenty-seven! At this rate, our republic would have, not eight or ten thousand, but nearly 750,000 soldiers constantly in the camp at the public expense.

2. How enormous the pecuniary burthens of such a system, though said to be the cheapest in the old world! One-sixth of the whole laboring population are continually on duty as soldiers; and hence five laborers in Prussia are obliged to support one soldier with all his incidental expenses. The people of this country, if required to support the same proportion of lawyers, physicians, or ministers of the gospel,—one for every five laborers,—most would doubtless, think themselves grievously taxed.

3. Mark the age at which men are taken, and the alternation or succession of their service; both calculated to weave the war-system into the web and woof of society, and to infuse the war-spirit into the entire mass of its minds. The period from twenty to twenty-five, is the very crisis of a man's life, the pivot of his destiny for this world, if not for the next; yet no man is exempted but by special favor.

4. What a despotism! No man in Prussia is at liberty to enter upon any course of business, to form his plans for life, or even to marry, until he has been an active soldier at least three years. There never was a fitter or more effectual school of despotism.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

GLANCE AT THE EVILS OF WAR.—War is an evil of such magnitude and bitterness, its evil influences on humanity radiate so widely, and infuse themselves so unexpectedly into all the relations of social life, that its abrogation among nations would be a blessing and a benefit of inconceivable and inestimable value. It is not the horrors of the battle field, the shrieks of the wounded and dying, the garments rolled in blood, the groans and tears of widows and orphans, the conflagrations of cities, the trampled down produce of harvests reared with toil and skill, and the desolation that it everywhere spreads in its fatal and destructive track, that are alone to be deprecated, or by which only we are to estimate the misery it inflicts on our race. Its malignant influence is felt at all times and in all places. In the very midst of peace and security, it blights the labors of man, adds weight to his burdens, and corrupts his nature. The *necessity*, as it is called, for being prepared to meet aggression, imposes on every country the permanent infliction of evils not less to be deprecated than the atrocities of actual warfare. The *morale* of every country is poisoned by the false principles conveyed in the instruction necessary to pervert man into a systematic murderer. Unsuspecting, ardent youth are seduced into admiration of what is in itself really hateful, and to be abhorred. Our towns and villages have introduced